

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-03 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 SPC-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY SANAA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING MARCH 8,
1974:

QUOTE: Q. A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO YOU WERE ASKED HERE IF YOU
HAD ANY INFORMATION ABOUT TROOP BUILDUPS IN THE GOLAN
HEIGHTS, ON THE SYRIAN SIDE. NOW, AGAINST THAT BACKGROUND
AND THAT RESPONSE, THERE IS A REPORT TODAY IN AN ISRAELI
PAPER WHICH CLAIMS THAT THE UNITED STATES INFORMED ISRAEL
ABOUT SYRIAN INTENTIONS TO HAVE TROOP BUILDUPS AND
POSSIBLY EVEN ANOTHER CONFLICT IN THAT AREA. COULD YOU
COMMENT ON THIS REPORT?

A. IS THIS THE STORY THAT I READ WHERE THE U.S. HAD
INFORMED ISRAEL OF SUCH BUILDUPS IN ORDER TO EXPEDITE
CABINET FORMATION?

Q. NO.

Q. THIS IS ANOTHER ONE. IT SAYS THAT ISRAEL RECEIVED A
WARNING FROM THE UNITED STATES ABOUT SYRIAN INTENTIONS TO
RESUME FIRING IN THE GOLAN HEIGHTS. AND IT ALSO REFERS TO
AN INTERVIEW WITH ISRAELI MINISTER SHIMON PEREZ SAYING
THAT THE SAME SOURCES WHICH SUPPLIED THIS INFORMATION ALSO
DELIVERED PRECISE INFORMATION ABOUT THE YOM KIPPUR WAR,
JUST PRIOR TO THE YOM KIPPUR WAR.

A. WELL, MY COMMENT ON THIS IS WE ARE OBVIOUSLY GETTING
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INTO THE REALM OF INTELLIGENCE, AND I AM NOT GOING TO
DISCUSS INTELLIGENCE.

Q. WHAT IS THE SITUATION ON THE BORDER BETWEEN SYRIA AND
ISRAEL TODAY, GEORGE?

A. FROM THE VARIOUS REPORTS WE'VE HAD, THERE ARE
SPOTTY REACTIONS. IT IS CLEARLY UNSTABLE ACTIVITY IN THE

AREA. IT'S A SITUATION WHICH IS DELICATE ENOUGH AND
LIKELY TO REMAIN SO AS LONG AS WE DON'T HAVE DISENGAGEMENT
THERE, AND WE'RE CLOSELY WATCHING IT.

Q. ON THE QUESTION OF THE TIMING OF THE SYRIAN-ISRAELI
TALKS, THEY WERE TO BE TWO WEEKS FROM A FEW DAYS AGO,
WHICH WOULD MAKE IT MORE OR LESS THE 20TH. IS THAT A FAIR
DATE TO HAVE IN MIND. AND, IF SO, HOW WOULD THAT FIT IN
WITH THE SECRETARY'S TRAVEL PLANS?

A. NO, I WOULD HAVE SAID APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEKS. AND I
WOULDHAVE THOUGHT THAT THIS ACTIVITY COULD GET UNDER WAY
ANY TIME FROM THE LATTER PART OF NEXT WEEK ON. THERE WAS
NO ABSOLUTISM ABOUT IT WILL HAPPEN WITHIN A CERTAIN TIME.
THIS WAS A GENERAL GUIDE ONLY. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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